

**Pleasantview Community Consultation on Flood Prevention
held November 15, 2005 at Pleasantview Hall**

Consultation Summary

Attendance: 9

Main presenter: Russell Barth, Senior Engineer & Flood Prevention Project Leader for Ward 5, Drainage Services, City of Edmonton

Presentation

The consultation began with introductions and an overview of 2005 flood prevention program and educational activities. Mr. Barth then reviewed drainage engineering findings for the community and presented recommended system improvements which include:

1. Building a new combined sewer line from 105 Street along 51 Avenue to draw and divert combined flow away from Pleasantview, relieving some pressure on the neighbourhood's system.
2. Separating the combined sewer system located underneath Pleasantview's low lying area (in and around 109 St. and 52 Ave.). A separate stormwater system would be built and the existing catch basins at street level redirected to the new stormwater pipes. The pipes would be connected to an existing stormwater tunnel on 111 Street.
3. Subsidizing the installation of backwater valves in all homes in the low lying area. *(already in place)*

The estimated cost of implementing recommendations #1 and #2 is \$3.86 million. The implementation plan calls for the combined sewer diversion to be built in two to three years while separating the combined sewer is expected to be done in three to five years. Implementation plan timing will depend on both funding and the capacity to do the work.

Input from Residents

People at the meeting were in favour of the recommended improvements. One person noted that there were no changes planned for the north end of the neighbourhood. It was explained that the recommended improvements in the south will relieve pressure on the overall system in Pleasantview.

Mr. Barth confirmed that City statistics of flooded homes represent the number reported by homeowners. One person suggested people were too busy to call after the flood or the phone line was always busy so people gave up trying. There was a concern that an inaccurate home flooding statistic might affect Pleasantview's priority status. Mr. Barth indicated that the most critically needed projects will be done first and emphasized Pleasantview is recognized as one of the communities that was hardest hit by flooding.

Several questions were asked about the backwater valve subsidy program. It was explained that the backwater valve subsidy program is only available to owners of single family homes. The program was expanded in September, 2005 to allow homeowners who were not flooded but in at-risk neighbourhoods to apply.

The draining of surface rainwater from one property to another was a concern for two consultation participants. It was noted that City policy prohibits a homeowner from directing water onto a neighbour's property. New homes require approval of a lot grading plan to ensure this occurs. Drainage Services Lot Grading Inspectors can help mediate lot drainage disputes between neighbours. It was suggested by one participant that the City hold educational workshops on proper lot grading.

In response to a question, it was noted that roof drains already connected to a storm sewer system can be left in place.

Next Steps

Mr. Barth emphasized that moving ahead with the recommendations and implementation plan is contingent on receiving City Council's approval of a funding package. This package will include recommended improvements for all 43 at risk neighbourhoods and is scheduled to be presented in April, 2006. In the meantime, design work is continuing.

Community residents will be kept informed by information bulletin and updates on Drainage Services' website at www.edmonton.ca/floodprevention. Additional comments or questions may be forwarded to Mr. Barth at 496-5552 or russell.barth@edmonton.ca